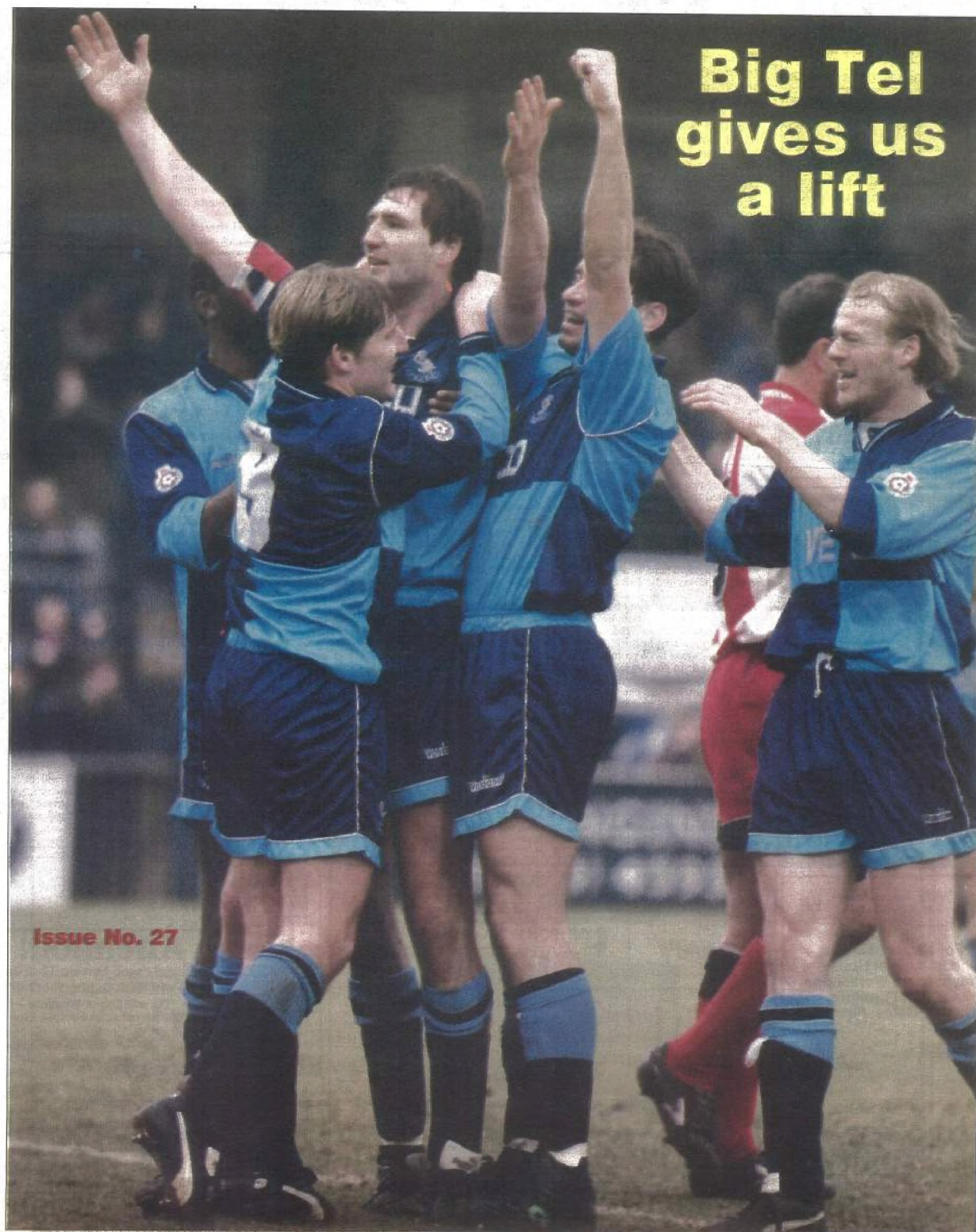




# *The* **BLUES NEWS**

*The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club*



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**Issue No. 27**

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## 2

## THE BLUES NEWS

# New stand is a bright prospect

THE start of construction of the new South Stand has created a new momentum of belief of the club that Division One football is an achievable goal, hopefully one that will happen sooner rather than later.

There are plans to pick out some form of wording or letters in the upper tier, whether it is The Blues, WWFC, or Blues etc. As the board of directors have not yet made a decision, now is the time to put forward your views and suggestions.

The 1996 Supporters' Survey results will be published in next month's Blues News. In September 1994, the club published the first set of results of a detailed Supporters' Survey at Adams Park. Several changes slowly came about as a result of that survey which proves, contrary to some people's view that the club don't listen to their fans, that the club does act where possible to improve its quality of service.

More than ten per cent of those who responded in August 1994 were students, who at that time had to pay adult admission prices to all matches. Since then, a concessionary rate with a saving of £2.50 has been introduced via Wycombe Sports Centre's free Freestyle Card.

Seventy-two per cent of respondents voted to support a no-smoking policy. As a result, the family stand and the family terrace areas were designated non-smoking. The 1,784-seater family stand in the new South Stand will also be a no-smoking area. There is also a no-smoking policy in the Errol Boardroom. In 1994, 16 per cent of supporters felt we should have a matchday creche, something that was properly introduced this season in the Community Leisure Room, kindly sponsored by Wycombe District Council, in the Vere Suite at Adams Park on matchdays. Thirty-four per cent felt the club coaches were too expensive, and as a consequence, prices have been reduced two seasons running. Twenty-nine per cent wanted a credit-card hotline, which has now got extended opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.15am until 5.15pm, and Saturday matchdays from 10am to 1pm on (01494) 441118.

The two Mizuno kit designs published in the Swindon Town programme caused a lot of interest.



Marketing Update  
By Mark Austin

Design B was the surprising choice, in my view, of supporters. I was convinced that the majority of supporters would prefer kit A as it was the nearest to our current kit.

It just shows you, we can't judge opinions without a proper vote. Despite the odd criticism, the club were applauded, even in The Adams Family Fanzine, for involving the fans, to which the credit should go to chairman Ivor Beeks.

Every Blues supporter who attended the Swindon Town match, was given the opportunity to vote, with extra slips being printed and distributed, and extra ballot boxes and pens being provided in the Commercial Office and Cornerflag Clubshop. A quick decision was needed to try and get the kit ready for the end of this season.

We are not sure yet whether or not this will now be achieved, as the new sublimation process is taking longer than we had hoped.

Many supporters I talked to wanted to retain the quarters as they are. Those most against any change were mainly those supporters who never purchase replica shirts.

Fortunately, the majority understand that every professional club in the land change their strip to earn income to pay players wages, and improve supporters' facilities etc.

However, there is no incentive to purchase a kit if it remains unchanged or is too similar to the existing one. I do believe the club would have kept the quarters as they are if enough supporters had financially committed to purchase another one. Alas, when a selection of those with current replica kits were asked whether they would buy a new one if the club did not change it's kit, the predictable answer of 'why?' came back. And indeed, why should they? I wouldn't either.

Hence, the need for a change. The two Mizuno Kit Designs put forward were chosen from dozens of new designs by the chairman, directors, manager, staff and players.

Without their approval, there would not have been any point in putting forward designs the club would have been unhappy with, as we all want the players and management to concentrate on winning matches and providing entertaining football.

Vandanel Sport & Leisure Limited are the official kit suppliers until June 30. The club will continue to purchase certain items of leisurewear from Vandanel Sport & Leisure that Mizuno cannot supply, such as the extremely popular Harlequin rugby shirts and rompers suits. The club have been extremely delighted with 99 per cent of the service of Vandanel during the last four years and intend to continue stocking their products, alongside Mizuno replica kits and leisurewear etc.

Finally, the Mothers' Day promotion met with a few criticisms, despite the fact that many additional ladies attended our match against Brentford. A small minority of lady season ticket holders felt they might be losing out to the tune of £1.28. Never fear ladies, a Members Day is planned for April 20.

Next season the club intend to publish a list of likely promotions before season tickets are offered, so people can work out if it is worth it. It is planned that all existing season ticket holders will get first choice of seats in the new stand; will receive some form of loyalty reward for renewing their season tickets next season; will get a discount and priority on the Vere Suite membership and also membership in the new supporters' bar in the South Stand. These will probably only be for those with season tickets in the South Stand.

There is also a whole range of other benefits.

It is likely that the club will do two Quid-A-Kid days next season. No promotion is ever undertaken without full consideration of season ticket holders. It is a difficult balance to strike, to attract new supporters without upsetting our extremely loyal and highly-valued regulars.

## Contents

Page 2  
Marketing update by Mark Austin

Page 3  
Manager Alan Smith's notes

Page 4  
Captain's Log by Terry Evans

Page 5  
Alan Parry gets excited about the new South Stand

Page 6  
Enter Pedal Push '96

Page 7  
Back our marathon man

Page 8  
A beer with John Williams

Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sande, High Wycombe. Telephone (01494) 472100. Fax (01494) 527633.

## Reduced entry for members

WYCOMBE Wanderers are holding a Members' Day for all season ticket holders, vice presidents, junior Blues and League-line members when they take on Jan Molby's improving Swansea City side on Saturday, April 20.

Members' Day benefits include reduced entry for most adult guests, free entry for children under 16 on the home terraces or into the home paddock area, and free entry for all junior Blues who are not season ticket holders.

Full details will be published in tomorrow's match-day programme when Wycombe Wanderers play Burnley (ko 3pm).

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## Attention!

All girls aged between 12 & 16: Do you want to play football?

The manager of Wycombe Wanderers Ladies Football Club

will be starting up a training session on Sunday mornings for girls

aged 12-16 to promote women's football in the area. The session will take place at Wye Valley School, Bourne End.

If you are interested please telephone Steve Cook on: 01865 61424

# Burnley's past is one to emulate

WYCOMBE Wanderers play Burnley in the Endleigh Insurance League Division Two for the first time in our 112-year history tomorrow.

Burnley were in Division One last season, having secured their place by winning the Division Two Play-Off Final in 1994, the day after Wycombe Wanderers beat Preston North End 4-2 in the Division Three Play-Off Final at over Walsall, Oxford United, York City and Swansea City.

I have been asked many times about the goalkeeping situation. Ben Roberts from Middlesbrough did an excellent job and we have now brought in Shep Dykstra from Queens Park Rangers on loan until the end of the season to ensure the club to have a proper look around for the best goalkeeper.

Many players will be released by other clubs, so there is no point in panic buying. More goalkeepers will soon be available to choose from.

**Infections**  
While the most important part of any football club is the players, their performance and results, it is also vital to have a stable home base on which to build success.

The £2 million stand is an enormous undertaking for Wycombe Wanderers, but an essential step towards securing Division One football in the future.

One astonishing fact this season is that no clubs have done the double over us. In fact, the only club that still have the opportunity to do so is Carlisle (until who beat us 4-2 at Brunton Park last November).

We play them in our last home game of the season on Saturday, April 17. Conversely, we can still do the double capable of.

This year, we will have a spectacular new stand with all its amenities to show off and which are worthy of Division One football which I believe we are



By Manager Alan Smith

## What have you got to lose?

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### 'Police insist on all-ticket derby'

THAMES Valley Police have insisted that our home fixture against rivals Oxford United on Monday, April 8, will be ALL TICKET for both home and away supporters. Terrace and seating tickets purchased from Wanderers in the Odeon Shopping Centre (open Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm). The shop will also be open Good Friday and Easter Saturday 10am to 4pm and all day on Easter Saturday. The Commercial Office and the credit card office will be open on Good Friday and Easter Saturday 10am to 4pm and all day on Easter Saturday. The Commercial Office and the credit card office will be open on Good Friday and Easter Saturday 10am to 4pm and all day on Easter Saturday. The Commercial Office and the credit card office will be open on Good Friday and Easter Saturday 10am to 4pm and all day on Easter Saturday.



You beauty: Dave Carroll scores a classic header in last season's 1-0 home win against Oxford



## THE BLUES NEWS

5

# New stand is good sign



By Wanderers  
Director Alan  
Parry

DURING the next few weeks the future of Wycombe Wanderers will begin to take shape both on and off the field.

While the players strive to win a place in the promotion play-offs, another team will be hard at work on the construction of our magnificent new stand.

These are exciting times for a club who have already made tremendous progress since joining the Football League less than three years ago. We will soon boast facilities that will be the envy of many clubs in the country and we have long had a team that is respected throughout the game.

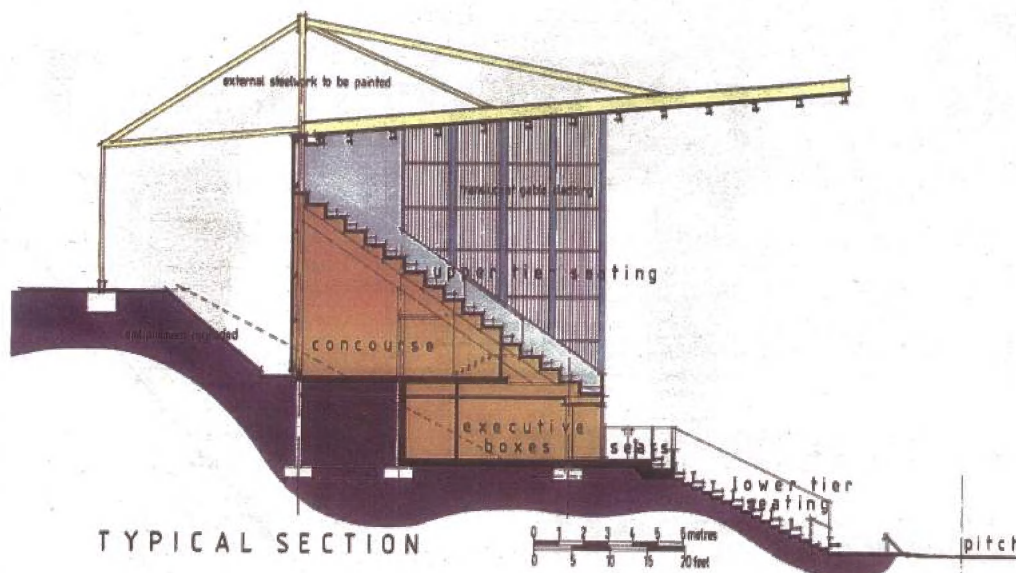
I am not being blind to some of the shortcomings we have seen on the field this season, but taking everything into consideration, we have a lot more reasons to be optimistic than pessimistic.

With the departure of Martin O'Neill and the arrival of Alan Smith, this was always going to be a difficult season of change and transition and it would have been unrealistic to expect everything to have gone smoothly.

On the playing front, the players have shown that on their better days they are capable of living with the best teams in Division Two. Sadly, there just haven't been enough days like that and a lack of consistency has been our major downfall.

However, the manager and his staff are aware of the problems and will be using the time between now and August to assess the strength of the playing squad and improve it where necessary.

Looking at the wider picture, the club are in a healthy state. Behind the scenes we have learned how to cope with the very different



What goes where: This side section view illustrates the lay out of the new South Stand which will replace the Woodland Terrace

demands of organising a professional football club.

We may make the occasional mistake, but we have a reputation in the game for being efficient and friendly.

I believe that the launching pad to an even brighter future will be the new stand. I have been told many times that potential supporters are put off coming to Adams Park because of the lack of seats.

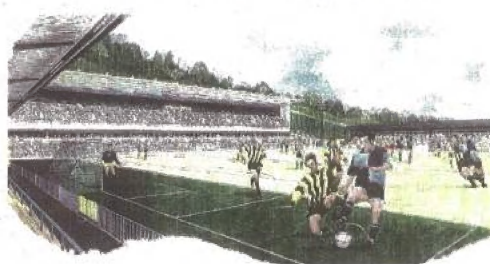
Next season, there will be an extra 5,000 seats and a host of other excellent facilities to make an afternoon at Wycombe Wanderers a pleasurable experience.

We have not yet announced our

pricing policy for the new stand, but I don't think that anyone will be disappointed. We have listened to your views and accept that we need to keep seat prices as low as possible. Our dearest wish is for the new stand to be filled with whole families who will come to regard a matchday at Adams Park as one of the highlights of their social week.

Let's hope that the new stand rekindles the enthusiasm and excitement that we've all enjoyed in our rapid rise during recent years.

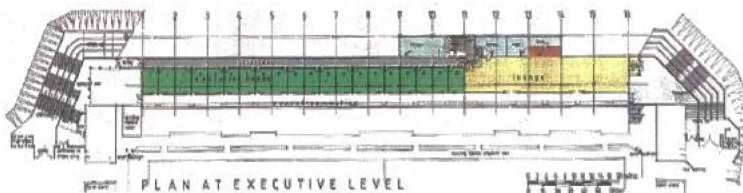
We have a stadium and a club that we should all be proud of and if we can recapture that Wanderers spirit of old, anything is possible.



The ideal: This is what the stadium should look like on match day



PLAN AT CONCOURSE LEVEL



PLAN AT EXECUTIVE LEVEL

Lay out: The South Stand will have all modern conveniences including televisions at tea bars

## Why not buy room with a view

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club are selling 20 executive boxes on a first-come, first-served basis now construction of the new South Stand is well under way.

To date, eight out of the 20 executive boxes have been allocated and sold on a four-year basis. To finance construction of the boxes, as no grants are available for corporate facilities, the club are selling each box of ten on a cash-up-front basis.

Any company willing to pay 80 per cent of the cost of the first three years up front, will receive the fourth year's use of the box free.

Each box has ten chairs, a table, Teletext TV, a fridge, carpet, heating, lighting and all necessary fixtures. All of the boxes will have glazed doors, glazed windows and

ten tip-up seats on a private balcony outside. Each box will have two designated car parking spaces, with the possibility of one to two more, depending on the length of agreement.

The annual cost of each box is £10,000, plus VAT, which includes ten tickets to every first team game. Boxes are available for the private use of each boxholder 364 days every year. The package also includes tickets to reserve and youth team fixtures. Each box comes with its own advertising space and a mention in the match-day programme. Food and drink will be available to order in each box. Annual lets, and day lets will only be available if any boxes are not sold by June 1, 1996. All executive box enquiries should be made to Mark Austin on (01494) 472100.

## Survey results are now due in next issue of Blues News

THE Wycombe Wanderers supporters survey results will now be published in next month's Blues News on Friday, April 26.

It has taken a lot longer than expected to collate all the answers to all the questions.

The results will also be

published in the Carlisle United matchday programme on Saturday, April 27.

The club will also publish a list of action points in response to as many of Wycombe Wanderers supporters' preferences as possible.

## Club unveil big kit deal

SPORTSWEAR giants Mizuno are to be Wycombe Wanderers new kit suppliers.

The deal, which will be for two years from July 1, 1996, with an option for an extension, was announced on the pitch before Wanderers' home game with Swindon Town.

There is now a range of Mizuno sports and leisure wear at both

club shops, Wanderers In Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre, and the Corner Flag at Adams Park.

The range includes: sweatshirts (kids) £22.99; sweatshirts (adults) £29.99; rugby shirts £29.99; T-Shirts (kids and adults) from £9.99; leisure shorts £16.99; rucksacks £14.99; sports bags from £19.99; baseball caps £9.99.



Playing ball: Peter Barber, head of Mizuno Europe, and Blues chairman Ivor Beeks

6

## THE BLUES NEWS



□ The Learning Through Football scheme is as popular as ever. The day consists of a brief understanding of how a football club is run, a question-and-answer session, exercises based around football, a community quiz and a ground tour. For further information, contact Matt Smith on (01494) 472100.

□ A Community Soccer Course takes place during the Easter week. It includes skills, coaching and testing, small-sided games, a tour of Adams Park and a chance to meet the players at Bisham Abbey. Telephone Matt Smith to book.

## Forum went down well

WE have had an open forum with officials of the club since the last issue.

Chairman Ivor Beeks and financial director Graham Peart met with a large contingent of members to answer a wide selection of questions on Wednesday, February 21. Topics covered varied from the new stand, the new kit and club coaches. Mr Beeks and Mr Peart were very forthcoming with their answers and indeed all those present appreciated their open approach. They took a number of points on board and improvements are in the pipeline.

The recent quiz night was a great success with ten teams taking part. A keenly-contested competition was won by Christine Blye and her team HTFAST.

### Blues Supporters' Club Update By Keith Blagborough

We sent two teams to a quiz night at St Albans City to meet up with other local supporters' clubs recently. Whether they invite us back remains to be seen because we came away with both first and second prize. There are two events coming up: the Wembley Tour Trip, April 21, coach leaves Adams Park at 10am; End of Season Dinner, May 3. For all details, see Rena in the foyer or telephone her on (01494) 382916 or Carol Teare on (01494) 563518 or Harold Summer on (01494) 440668.

## Get on your bike for charity

### ENTRY FORM

(PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS ENTRY FORM ARE ACCEPTABLE)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode (you must use your post code) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Age (If under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM ENTRY (please read all team forms in one batch)

Name Of Team Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Company Team ☐ Social Team

T-SHIRTS (all profits in the Charities) please indicate quantity & sizes

☐ Large ☐ X Large all £7.00

I ENCLOSE:

My Entry Fee £5.00 £ \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation £ \_\_\_\_\_

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It must be pointed out that cycling can be a strenuous activity

and therefore all participants should be in a reasonable state of

health. Wycombe Stroke Club or the Rotary Club of High

Wycombe cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to

personal effects, personal accidents, injury or any public liability

I have read and agreed to the above conditions.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you are under 18 your parent or guardian should sign



JOIN Wycombe Wanderers players to help raise money for charity in Pedal Push 1996.

High Wycombe Rotary Club have organised two cycle rides, one over a 25-mile course and another over 50, to take place on Monday, May 27, in order to raise money for the Wycombe Stroke Club, the Mayor's Appeal and other Rotary charities.

The two routes will take participants through some of Buckinghamshire's most beautiful countryside.

If you want to take part, fill in the accompanying entry form and send off as directed with your cheque. On receipt, you will receive a sponsorship form. You can enter individually or as a team. Teams can include as many as 12 people.

A starter pack with your entry number and t-shirt is sent 14 days before the cycle ride.



Pedal pushers: (from left) Matt Lawrence, Mickey Bell and Steve Brown

### Advertisement feature

## We've got it all to play for!

SOMETIMES it seems like the world of football with The Blues contains all the highs and lows of life itself.

From 'over the moon' to 'sick as a parrot' and 'the occasional score' - all of life's rich feelings are reflected on the pitch.

Just like a football match, life and our future is impossible to predict. In our early days, our energy may be spent finding our way and learning about the team and opposition. After every 'foul' we may pick ourselves up and start again. And, if we're lucky (very lucky as far as The Blues are concerned recently) we might 'make a pass', 'score' and 'take the glory'. But nobody knows what the final score will be until the whistle blows.

If we don't use some of our time planning a strategy, we could score an own goal. All players need some good advice to help them make the right moves in a match. The Blues



take their advice from Alan Smith but in the game of life, we need some sound advice to guarantee we are winners financially - the kind of help you can get from a financial adviser.

Of course, this article is just another way of making a pitch, reminding you how important it is to make sure your financial plans, if you have any, are going to meet your needs in the future. Realistically, we all know someone who has had to face an unexpected 'foul' in life, redundancy, serious illness or an accident.

So why don't we all learn a

lesson from these people? Why don't we take a little time to guarantee that should anything like this happen to us, the last thing we'll have to worry about is paying the bills?

Well, the answer to these questions are as much a mystery as why did the turnip return? Who will pull the short straw and have to manage England after the European Championships? When will The Blues lose that sinking feeling? No answers on a postcard thank you.

Come and visit our stand at any home match, telephone us on (01494) 46691 or fill in and send me the coupon below. One of our personal financial advisers can help you guarantee your financial security, whatever happens.

AXA Equity & Law is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own Life Assurance, Pensions and Unit Trusts.

To: Michael Shea, AXA Equity & Law, Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5AL. Please ask a Consultant to contact me to arrange for me to receive complimentary financial advice.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE BLUES NEWS

7



Good 'ere init: A typical scene from the Toddlin Wanderers creche

### Plenty of play time at derby

WYCOMBE Wanderers' match day creche Toddlin' Wanderers will be open for the forthcoming all-ticket clash with rivals Oxford United on Easter Monday.

Toddlin' Wanderers, which caters for children aged between two and eight during

every Saturday fixture at Adams Park, will be open during this eagerly-awaited derby.

The creche is open from 2.30pm to 5pm. Any away supporters are more than welcome to use the facility for their children.

The creche will be open as usual for tomorrow's game against Burnley. The cost per session per child is £3.50. You may book your child in on the day, subject to availability, or pre-book a place by ringing Tim Arnold on (01494) 472100.

# Help us back our Del's run

WYCOMBE Wanderers have taken up a marathon challenge.

We need you to get behind Derek Vere, the joint managing director of official club sponsors Verco Office Furniture Ltd. He is our club runner for the Flora London Marathon's Football Challenge on April 21, 1996.

Derek will line up on the start line with representatives from more than 100 other football

clubs from the FA Carling Premiership, Endsleigh and Scottish Premier Division leagues to tackle the 26.2 mile course, plus, obviously thousands of other individuals and teams.

He is raising money for the Bucks Association of Youth Clubs. If you would like to help, contact Margaret King, of the BAYC on (01296) 631319 and ask for a sponsorship form to pledge your support.

Alternatively, you can send/hand in a cheque or postal order made out to BAYC and address it to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HU.

The Flora London Marathon will award a prize to the winning runner from each football league and to the club runner who raises the most for charity.



Val Bate (left) and Brenda Griffiths with their prizes

### Mums' winning scoredraw

MUMS Val Bate and Brenda Griffiths won prizes in the Mother's Day draw at the recent Brentford match.

Val, from Hughenden Valley, won a Booker Garden Centre bouquet of flowers, while Brenda, from Widmer End, took home a bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne.

### Stewards needed

WE are looking for new stewards.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 55, fit, and active, you may like to consider the job. Pay is not high, but you will be able to attend all home matches without paying an entrance fee. You will also be doing something worthwhile for the club and the community.

If you are interested, call in at the club reception at Adams Park and ask for an application form. Alternatively, telephone (01494) 472100 and we will be pleased to send you an application form in the post.

### Ladies build team

WYCOMBE Wanderers' ladies are setting up an Under-16s side to add to their current playing staff and would welcome any new members.

Coaching is on Sunday mornings and matches will also be arranged at Wye Valley School, Bourne End. Call Steve Cooke on (01865) 61424 for further information.

# WANDERERS GO MAD IN MARCH

**DATE: Sunday 31st March 1996**

**VENUE: Vere Suite, Adams Park**

**TIME: 10.30am - 2.30pm**

This Sunday Wycombe Wanderers Football Club are holding a March Madness Clearance Sale in the Vere Suite at Adams Park. Due to overstocking there will be many items reduced to well below cost price including current brand new replica kits, leisure wear and sports wear. See below for a selection of special offers and prices that will be available during the 3 hour sale.

**All kids yellow replica football shirts will be reduced from £25.99 to an astonishing £4.99. Adults sizes will be reduced from £31.99 to £9.99. There will also be plenty of first, second and third kit shorts and socks available which will also be slashed in price. Kids shorts will be reduced to £4.99 and adult sizes £7.99. All socks will be an astonishing £2.99.**

### SALE ITEMS - PRICE LIST 31/3/96

ITEM	WAS	NOW	DOWN (%)
WWFC YELLOW REPLICA SHIRTS (KIDS)	£25.99	£4.99	80%
WWFC Yellow Replica Shirt (Adults)	£31.99	£9.99	69%
Wycombe Wanderers Goalie Shirts (Kids)	£27.99	£9.99	65%
Wycombe Wanderers Goalie Shirts (Adults)	£34.99	£9.99	71%
Wycombe Wanderers Replica Shorts (Kids)	£12.99	£4.99	62%
* Blue * Yellow * Black * Goalies			
Wycombe Wanderers Replica Shorts (Adults)	£17.50	£7.99	55%
* Blue * Yellow * Black * Goalies			
Wycombe Wanderers Sweatshirts (Kids)	£17.50	£9.99	60%
* Swan Crest and Embossed			
Wycombe Wanderers Sweatshirts (Adults)	£24.99	£7.99	68%
* Swan Crest and Embossed			
Vandanel Navy Sweatshirts (Kids)	£16.99	£9.99	41%
Vandanel Navy Sweatshirts (Adults)	£27.99	£11.99	57%
Wycombe Wanderers Rugby Shirts (Kids)	£23.99	£11.99	50%
Wycombe Wanderers Rugby Shirts (Adults)	£27.99	£11.99	57%
Wycombe Wanderers Polo Shirts (Black, White, Red, Teal)	£14.99	£5.99	60%
Ribbed Run Out Sweat Tops	£44.99	£19.99	55%
Wycombe Wanderers Managers Jacket	£79.99	£49.99	38%
Wycombe Wanderers Bench Jacket	£79.99	£49.99	38%
Wycombe Wanderers Duvet Covers - Single	£19.95	£9.99	50%
Wycombe Wanderers Duvet Covers - Double	£27.95	£14.99	66%
Mitre Tactic Footballs	£8.99	£4.99	45%
High Fives Video	£14.99	£4.99	67%
Beam Us Up Scotty Video	£12.99	£2.99	77%
WWFC Jacquard Scarfs	£5.50	£2.99	45%
WWFC Ties (Silver and Gold)	£6.99	£1.99	72%
WWFC Kit Mugs	£3.25	£1.99	39%
Car Mini Kits	£2.49	99p	60%
WWFC Key Wallets	£2.50	50p	80%
WWFC Team Poster	£1.99	50p	75%
WWFC Flat Caps		50p	

**\* ALL REMAINING SKY BLUE AND NAVY QUARTERS, YELLOW WITH NAVY TRIM AND RED AND BLACK STRIPES REPLICA KITS WILL BE ON SPECIAL OFFER IN THIS SUNDAY'S MARCH MADNESS SALE**

8

## THE BLUES NEWS

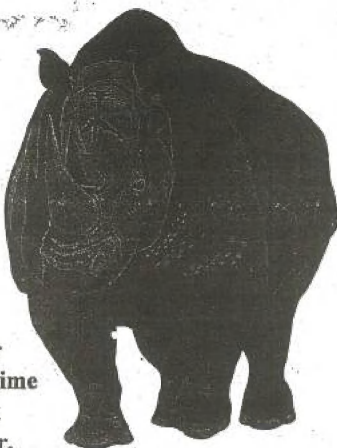
## 'My true form's coming through'



JOHN WILLIAMS

Inside: Terry Evans reviews the past month

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**Q.** How does it feel to be player of the month after having such a difficult start at the club?

**A.** It's given me a great lift, because when I first came I was a bag of nerves, and I just had to work even harder to get my bearings which is what I'm doing now. I was in no doubt that things would turn around for me, but at first it was a bit difficult to settle in.

It's a new environment, new players. I was used to living at home in Birmingham. Coventry was 20 minutes away, and I had my family close to me.

**Q.** Did you ever worry that after only one goal in your first 19 games with Wycombe, that it wasn't going to happen?

**A.** When the gaffer dropped me, it gave me a kick up the rear end, and I thought to myself that I've got to do better than this and my true form's coming through now, so I'm happy.

**Q.** What was the turning point?

**A.** Bournemouth I'd say, because I got the feeling of scoring again. In the pre-season I was with Coventry and scoring lots of goals for them. I was on top of the world. I came here, had a difficult start and was taking a lot of stick off the fans, but they pay their money to see good performances and I just want to repay them to be honest.

**Q.** Was the hat-trick against Stockport part of the payment?

**A.** I didn't chase the third goal, so when it happened, I was just over the moon. It was a great feeling, especially for the fans to clap me off and start singing my name. It really made me feel proud. I mean, they started turning after the Bournemouth game.

**Q.** You're on an orangina here, but presumably that's only because you've got to drive somewhere. So how do you usually celebrate a win?

**A.** My closest friends are the ones I grew up with and we go out into town in Birmingham and we dance the night away and get a few beers down and get totally hammered. It's enjoyable. If we win I go out, but if we lose I have a bit of a sulk and sit in and watch Match of the Day to see how Coventry got on.

**Q.** Do you still follow Coventry closely?

**A.** Well, I've only been in

## A BEER WITH ... JOHN WILLIAMS

**After a troubled end to 1995, the new year has brought the welcome sight of striker John Williams at last finding his feet in the Wycombe team. And with happier times marked by the Player of the Month award for February, he enjoys a glass of Orangina and discusses hat-tricks, Take That and trees with Darren Bignell**

football for four years, so I always look out for the teams I've played for. Swansea I look for first because they gave me a start in life, and then Coventry.

**Q.** So who's your money on for the Premiership?

**A.** That's a tough one. I'm not a very big Newcastle fan. They play great football but their away form is not as good as their home form, so I'd have to say that it's between Manchester Utd and Liverpool.

**Q.** Are you the fastest player in the Football League?

**A.** Running is my strength. Some players look quick, but because I'm so tall and ungainly, people think I am not so quick. But once I get my legs going, there's no catching me. Miquel Desouza is a powerhouse runner and David Farrell is quick over short distances, but I think over 100 metres I'd probably be the stronger.

**Q.** So is there one opponent that you've particularly enjoyed skinning?

**A.** I don't really think like that. I've got no personal vendetta against anyone. A player is a player, as far as I am concerned. They're the enemy and I go out there to skin any opponent and if the ball's put in the right area, nine times out of ten, I'll do it.

**Q.** What's the greatest film ever made?

**A.** I've always been into mafia-based stories, the wise guy movies such as Goodfellas. Scarface with Al Pacino was a classic, so was Once Upon A Time In

America and I'm a great fan of Francis Ford Coppola's The Godfather, so it'd have to be that, The Godfather Part One.

**Q.** Are you a fan of the Carry On films at all?

**A.** When I was a kid I used to watch them, but they don't really do anything for me now, because when you're older you can see how badly they were made.

**Q.** Can you do an impression of Kenneth Williams saying 'Ooh, No' in scandalised tones?

**A.** No, not at all. (Attempts it anyway. Sadly, his bravery outweighs his ability as a mimic) 'Oooh, noo!'

**Q.** Did you cry when Take That split up?

**A.** No, sorry, I'm not a teeny girl. I don't throw my bras at boy bands. I met Robbie Williams once, on a night out in Liberty's in Birmingham. I was with my friend Phil Babb on my birthday and he came out for a drink with us. Williams was a nice person, but that was just before he split from them.

**Q.** So after he left, you didn't really care anymore?

**A.** Well, I wasn't really bothered when he was with them, to be honest.

**Q.** If a tree falls down in a forest, and no-one's there to hear it, does it make a noise?

**A.** No-one? What about the animals, don't they count? (No) Erm, no.

**Q.** Is God a man in a quartered number seven shirt?

**A.** Yes

**Q.** Which player out of the Wycombe Wanderers team would you want to be?

**A.** Well, I'm happy being me, but I admire Terry Howard. He's a great person and a great player, always there to help and give advice. If you're not doing so well, he'll always put his arm round you and say 'come on, keep going', and, as far as I'm concerned, he hasn't had a bad game.

**Q.** Are we still in with a chance for the play-offs?

**A.** It's a topsy-turvy league. All the teams at the top are losing now. Swindon have dropped a few points and Blackpool have gone top; Bristol Rovers lost to Bristol City at home, so anything could happen. We've just got to start scoring more goals and keep winning.

## Away Colours

A fixture list of Wycombe Wanderers' remaining away games, along with the colours the team will play in, are listed below.

- Walsall: Tuesday, April 2 - yellow with navy trim
- Hull City: Saturday, April 6 - blue shirt with white shorts
- York City: Saturday, April 13 - yellow with navy trim
- Bristol Rovers: Saturday, May 4 - red and black stripes



**SAY CHEESE:** Brothers Darren and Jason Rowbotham were all smiles before Wycombe's recent 1-1 draw at Shrewsbury despite Shrewsbury forward Darren (left) and Wycombe defender Jason, the younger of the two, both having to start on the substitutes' bench.